

Community Preservation Act Committee- Proposal Request Form for FY 2017

Project Title:

__ Christopher Thompson Memorial Stone __

CPA funding category: Check all that apply

<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Housing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Open Space
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Historic Preservation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation

Amount of CPA Funds Requested:

\$ __ 5,000 __

Submitting Entity:

__ Amherst Historical Commission __

Contact Person:

__ Jonathan Tucker, Senior Planner __

Phone: __ 413-259-3040 __

Email: __ tuckerj@amherstma.gov __

Please complete this form in its entirety and include the following in your proposal.

Overview of Proposal: Please describe your project and your feasibility analysis.

The Amherst Historical Commission hereby submits a request for \$5,000 in FY17 CPA funding to fabricate and install a memorial stone in West Cemetery honoring the memory and Civil War service of Christopher Thompson, a black resident of Amherst who fought for the Union during the Civil War.

Approximately 20 black men from Amherst fought for the Union during the Civil War. Of those, five were members of the Thompson family – four brothers and Christopher’s son, Charles. Charles and John Thompson are buried in West Cemetery. We know from Pelham death records (where Christopher lived at the end of his life), that Christopher is also buried in West Cemetery. However, there is no surviving headstone for him and no record of exactly where in West Cemetery he is buried. West Cemetery has several Thompson family plots—the Charles Thompson plot would be preferred because it is close to the roadway that passes through the cemetery and would be more visible to visitors. However, there are alternative sites if needed.

The Historical Commission proposes to erect a memorial stone for Christopher Thompson to be set next to the headstone of his son Charles, of similar shape and lettering. A photograph of the existing headstone for Charles is attached.

Describe how your request meets the CPA criteria:

1. Description of funding needed, including:

a. Documentation of cost estimates, budget

The Historical Commission obtained estimates for cutting, inscription, and installation of the memorial stone (see attached quote). The preliminary quotation from Dorsey Memorials was \$2,470 for a granite headstone shaped like the headstone of Christopher’s son, Charles. That price includes installation, but the Commission desires to add some additional interpretive wording on the stone to place Christopher’s life in context and to indicate that the stone was placed in 2016 by the Town of Amherst. Although Charles’ older stone is made from marble and is quite well preserved, Dorsey recommends granite as a more durable material for Christopher’s memorial stone. A marble gravestone would also be significantly more expensive; Dorsey has quoted a price of \$5,636 for marble.

b. Other sources of funding, e.g., grants, self-funding, fund-raising

Given the relatively low cost of the project, no other funding has been sought. Further, given Christopher Thompson's service to the community, it did not seem appropriate to request funding support from his descendants.

c. Timeline on how CPA funds would be spent, including over multiple years

The entire project—memorial stone cutting, inscription, and installation--would be completed in 2016.

2. Urgency of the Project, if any.

Some of the members of the family most involved with this project are elderly and others are ill. The Historical Commission would like to complete this project within a time frame that allowed family members to view the memorial stone in place and participate in the accompanying celebration.

3. Estimated timeline from receipt of funds to Project completion.

July 1, 2016 to October 31, 2016, in time to schedule an outdoor celebration of the memorial stone.

4. Acquisition or preservation of threatened resources.

The memorialization and highlighting of an existing but largely unknown resource—the service of Amherst's black Civil War soldiers. As noted, Christopher Thompson is buried in West Cemetery but his whereabouts is unknown. Of the five members of the Thompson family who fought on behalf of the Union, only Christopher and Charles survived.

5. Population(s) to be served by the Project.

All of those who visit West Cemetery, those who are interested in Amherst's history, and those who are interested in the history of the participation of black soldiers in the Civil War.

6. How will the CPA investment in your property, facility or project be maintained over time?

A granite memorial headstone should not require maintenance for centuries. The plot will continue to be mowed by the Trees and Grounds crew of Amherst DPW.

7. Which relevant Town committees and/or commissions are you working with?

The Amherst Historical Commission is sponsoring this project.

8. Other information regarding the Project deemed necessary for CPAC

Accompanying documentation:

- ~ Quotes from Dorsey Memorials
- ~ Photograph of Charles Thompson's gravestone in West cemetery.
- ~ Proposed wording for Christopher Thompson's gravestone.
- ~ Photograph of a Civil War veteran. The exact identity of this man is unknown. Because the photo was discovered in a shoe box of photographs in the possession of the Harris family, it is quite possible that this is Christopher Thompson.
- ~ Pelham death record for Christopher Thompson.
- ~ Excerpt from Christopher Thompson's military service record.
- ~ Aerial map of Thompson family plots in West Cemetery.

Dorsey Memorials

Dorsey Memorials
707 Main St.
Amherst, MA 01002
Phone and Fax (413) 253-5212
www.dorsey Memorials.com

Nov 24, 2015

QUOTE FOR MEMORIAL FOR CHRISTOPHER THOMPSON

Memorial to match existing memorial (as close as possible) for Charles H. Thompson in the
West Cemetery , Amherst MA

Grey Granite.....All steeled, no chamfers, straight sides..same top as Charles H.
Thompson
Lettered and set in West Cemetery

Monument, plinth and base...lettered and set\$2280.00

Cement foundation..... \$190.00

Sales Tax..... \$154.37

Total.....\$2624.37

> 2470

White Marble.....All smooth, no chamfers, straight sides..same top as Charles H
Thompson
Lettered and set West Cemetery

Monument, plinth and base..lettered and set..... \$5446.00

Cement Foundation..... \$190.00

Sales Tax.....\$352.25

Total..... \$5988.25

> 5636

FATHER
CHARLES H. THOMPSON

MEMBER OF
CO. E 5TH MASS. CAVALRY
DIED OCT. 20 1903
E 64 YRS



Proposed lettering for Christopher Thompson's gravestone. Patterned after the wording on that of his son, Charles.

Front of stone:

CHRISTOPHER THOMPSON

**MEMBER OF
Co. D 5TH MASS. CAVALRY
DIED NOV. 5, 1898
Æ 79 YRS**

IN MEMORIAM

Erected 2016 by a grateful community

Back of stone:

Enlisted for the Union:

**Henry Thompson, older brother*
John D. Thompson, Henry's son*
Christopher Thompson, middle brother
Charles H. Thompson, Christopher's son
James Thompson, younger brother***

***Died in service.**



Colored Troops Military Service Records, 1863-1865 for Ch

Colored Cavalry > Strother, Frank - Vance, William H

I 5 Cav. (Col'd.) Mass.

Christopher Thompson
Co. *D*, 5 Reg't Mass. Cav. (Col'd.)

Appears on

Company Descriptive Book
of the organization named above.

DESCRIPTION.

Age *44* years; height *5* feet *11* inches.

Complexion *Blk*

Eyes *Blk*; hair *Blk*

Where born *Fatfield, Mass.*

Occupation *carver*

ENLISTMENT.

When *Jan 4*, 186*4*.

Where *Andoverst*

By whom *E. Ingraham*; term *3* y'rs.

Remarks: *Mustered in Co. D*
Jan 29-64. by Lt. McKibbin
Needville Mass.

recorded in the books of the Town of Pelham Mass.
during the month of Nov, 3rd 1898 V
(City or Town)

1. Date of Death, . . .
2. Name, . . .
(Maiden Name), . . .
3. Sex, and whether single,
Married, or Widowed,
4. Color, . . .
5. Age, . . .
6. Disease or Cause of Death,
Duration of Sickness,
(By whom certified, . . .
7. Residence, . . .
8. Occupation, . . .
9. Place of Death, . . .
10. Place of Birth, . . .
11. Name of Father, . . .
12. Name of Mother,
(Maiden Name), . . .
13. Birthplace of Father, . . .
14. Birthplace of Mother, . . .
15. Place of Interment, . . .

November 5th 1898 V
Christopher Thompson
Male Married
X
82 Years, 0 Months, 0 Days.
Hemorrhage of Brain X
Two Weeks
A. G. Goodkell
Pelham
Farmer
Pelham
By accident
Stephen Thompson
Margaret Thompson
Nov 4
West Cemetery, Amherst Mass

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy.

Attest:

Quentin W. Heath



Horizontal Datum: MA Stateplane Coordinate System, Zone 4151, NAD83, Feet; Vertical Datum: NAVD88, FT
Planimetric & topographic basemap compiled at 1"=40' scale from April, 2009 Aerial Photography. Parcels compiled to match the basemap; revisions are ongoing.

The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. It may not be adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or property conveyance purposes. Utility structures & underground utility locations are approximate & require field verification.

The Town of Amherst makes no warranties, expressed or implied, concerning the accuracy, completeness, reliability, or suitability of these data, & does not assume any liability associated with the use or misuse of these data.

Property M

□ Adjacent Towns Parcels

□ Cemetery Plots

Streets

— Local Roads

— Major Roads

— State Routes

MassDOT Roads

— Limited Access Highway

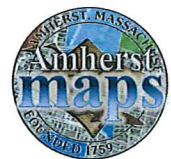
— Multi-lane Hwy, not limited a

— Other Numbered Highway

— Major Road, Collector

— Minor Road, Arterial

— Ramp



1" = 40 ft

